



**HOWARD HEPBURN, Ed.D.**  
**DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT, TEACHING & LEARNING**

**PHONE:** 754-321-2100

**FAX:** 754-321-2701

**EMAIL:** howard.hepburn@browardschools.com

September 26, 2023

TO: All Principals

FROM: Judith M. Marte  
Deputy Superintendent, Finance & Operations

VIA: Howard D. Hepburn, Ed.D.  
Deputy Superintendent, Teaching & Learning

SUBJECT: UNIVERSAL FREE LUNCH PROGRAM PILOT

The Food and Nutrition Services Department is piloting the Universal Free Lunch Program in 47 Non-Community Eligibility Provision (Non-CEP) Schools for the 2023/2024 school year. The Universal Free Lunch Program Pilot provides reimbursable lunch meals to students at no charge, regardless of their eligibility. The Universal Free Lunch Program Pilot will begin August 21, 2023, and end June 10, 2024.

To sustain the Universal Free Lunch Program Pilot, it is vital for parents to complete an online application for claim reimbursement and to provide opportunities for additional District programs.

Attached is the Parent Link script for principals to be sent Monday, October 2, 2023, to encourage parents to complete a Meal Benefits application.

Also included is the Letter to Households which is to be posted on the school's District website.

A monthly reminder Parent Link script and letter for the school's website will be sent to reinforce the importance of Meal Benefits applications to sustain the Universal Free Lunch Program Pilot.

The goal of the Universal Free Lunch Program Pilot is to increase student academic achievement, while supporting student performance.

UNIVERSAL FREE LUNCH PROGRAM PILOT

September 26, 2023

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The Food and Nutrition Services Department will fund the Universal Free Lunch Program Pilot.

The Food and Nutrition Services Meal Benefit Area is available to answer questions at (754) 321- 0250.

PBL/JMM/MM:mf

Attachments

cc: School Board Members

Dr. Peter B. Licata, Superintendent of Schools

Regional Superintendents

Mary Mulder, Executive Director, Food and Nutrition Services Department

Regional Directors

Diane Punziano, Assistant Director, Food and Nutrition Services Department Mark Mills, Finance Manager

Area Supervisors. Food and Nutrition Services

Food and Nutrition Services Free and Reduced Meal Application Processors

Free and Reduced-Priced Meal Application Designees

Letter to Households Universal Free Lunch Program Pilot

October 2, 2023

Dear Parent or Guardian and Caregivers,

The Food and Nutrition Service Department is providing all students with free breakfast and lunch under the Universal Free Breakfast Program and Universal Free Lunch Program Pilot for the 2023-2024 school year.

As this is a Program Pilot, it is vital that households continue to apply online at [www.myschoolapps.com](http://www.myschoolapps.com) to secure the Universal Free Lunch Program Pilot for the next school year along with additional district opportunities.

To qualify for additional programs, complete the Free and Reduced-Price Meal application along with the Disclosure Form.

Second Meals will be charged at the adult meal prices at \$4.75.

Parents, Guardians and Caregivers are encouraged to create an account for each student through My School Bucks at [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com) for the purchase of a la carte items.

For more information on Meal Benefits contact Food and Nutrition Services at 754-321-0250. For further assistance, please contact us at Panther Run Elementary 754-323-6860 Cafeteria 754-323-6850 Front Office Thank you.

Parent Link Message for Universal Free Lunch Program Pilot

Hello BCPS, Parents, Guardians and Caregivers

The Food and Nutrition Service Department at Panther Run Elementary is providing all students with breakfast and lunch at no cost under the Universal Free Breakfast and Universal Free Lunch Program Pilot for the 2023-2024 school year.

As this is a Program Pilot, it is vital that households continue to apply online at [www.myschoolapps.com](http://www.myschoolapps.com) to secure the Universal Free Lunch Program Pilot for the next school year along with additional district opportunities.

Parents, Guardians and Caregivers are encouraged to create an account for your student through My School Bucks at [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com) for a la carte items.